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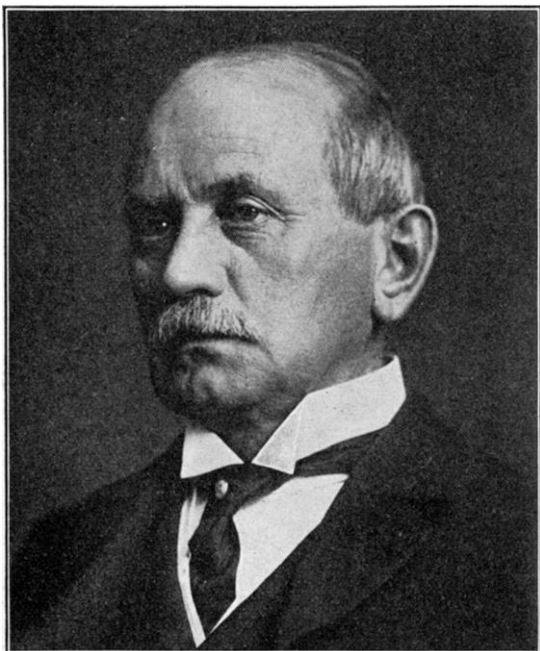
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**John Williams White**

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The news of the sudden death, on May 9, 1917, at Cambridge, Massachusetts, of Professor John Williams White brought a keen sense of loss to many a classical scholar, and came as a painful shock to those who had known him at all intimately.

Professor White was born in Cincinnati, March 5, 1849, and was thus entering upon his sixty-ninth year at the time of his death. In 1868 he received his bachelor's degree from Ohio Wesleyan University, and in 1871 his master's degree from the same institution. After that he was in Germany for a time, and in 1874 was appointed Tutor in Greek at Harvard. In 1877 he received the degrees of A.M. and Ph.D. from Harvard, and in the same year became an Assistant Professor there. In 1884 he was

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promoted to a Professorship of Greek, and this he held until 1909. In 1911 he was made Professor Emeritus, and in 1913 Harvard conferred upon him the degree of Litt. D. In the course of his career Professor White also received various honorary degrees from other institutions in this country, and in England, in 1900, the degree of Litt. D. from the University of Cambridge. From 1881-1886 he was Chairman of the Managing Committee of the American School at Athens, and in 1893-1894 held the Annual Professorship at the School. He was President of the Archaeological Institute from 1897 to 1903. Both in this country and abroad he was a member of various learned societies.

As teacher and scholar, Professor White fully deserved the high reputation which he won. As a teacher, both by his work in the class-room and by the publication of text-books, his influence on the study of Greek was far-reaching, and for the admirable "College Series of Greek Authors," which he and Professor Seymour edited, American teachers will long owe him a debt of gratitude. His influence was also widely spread by the publication in 1878 of his *Introduction to the Rhythmic and Metric of the Classical Languages*, a translation and adaptation of the *Leitfaden* of Dr J. H. H. Schmidt. In later years, to be sure, he rejected much of Schmidt's theories, but for all that the *Introduction* brought to many a teacher his first real insight into the problems of Greek metrical structure, and enabled him to put before his students a workable theory. The influence of this book in England also may be seen in the introduction to Jebb's *Oedipus Tyrannus*.

During the earlier years of his teaching, Professor White devoted himself chiefly to undergraduate work, and few who have attended his courses will forget the atmosphere of vigor which pervaded the class-room, and the lucid character of his interpretations. It would be difficult to conceive of better teaching, for example, than was to be found in his course in Thucydides with its skillful combination of lecture and recitation. Anything which could give the student a vivid sense of the reality of Ancient Greece was grist to his mill, and out of this desire to create a living impression of ancient conditions grew his valuable courses in Greek life, which attracted many who were not special students of the classics. With this same desire he was the moving spirit in the brilliant performance of the *Oedipus Tyrannus* at Harvard in 1881. His untiring work for the organization of the

American School at Athens was inspired by this vivid sense of the reality of Ancient Greece, and he and Professor Norton are rightly regarded as the founders of the School.

As Professor White approached middle life, he felt strongly that his plans for scholarly achievement had been held in check by his almost exclusive devotion to undergraduate teaching, and by the many calls for committee work to which his unusual organizing ability had laid him open. He therefore gave up his undergraduate courses and devoted himself to graduate instruction and scholarly activity. The graduate work was original in form and highly successful, and his courses in Demosthenes and Aristophanes formed a very valuable addition to the higher instruction in Harvard University. In these courses it was that Professor White's great ability to direct the work of students was shown in most marked degree. The author was considered as a whole, and the students took up their study of him from different points of view.

It was especially in connection with Aristophanes that Professor White showed the remarkable growth of his own scholarship, and this in spite of the struggle against ill health which came to him in his later years. One may truly say in the words of the old epigram that "in seeking to win a sanctuary that will not fail, he found the soul of Aristophanes." In 1912 he published the noteworthy volume on *The Verse of Greek Comedy*, and in 1914 *The Scholia on the Aves*. These books must always hold a very high place among American contributions to classical scholarship. The masterly essay which forms the introduction to the latter work makes it only too clear how great is the loss that has prevented the completion of the extensive edition of Aristophanes which Professor White had planned. To American scholarship he has bequeathed a record of solid accomplishment, to his pupils the memory of a remarkably vigorous, awakening, and friendly teacher, and to all who knew him the example of a continuing growth, which age but served to strengthen, both in scholarship and in character.

ἡ χρηστός ἀνὴρ πολί-  
ταις ἐστὶν ἅπασιν ὅσ-  
τις γ' ἐστὶ τοιοῦτος.

J. R. W.